

## The Progressive Farmer.

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"The Progressive Farmer will be, in the broadest sense of the word, a North Carolina paper. Serving no master, ruled by no faction, circumscribed by no selfish or narrow policy, its aim will be to foster and promote the best interests of the whole people of the State. It will be true to the instincts, traditions and history of the Anglo-Saxon race. On all matters relating specially to the great interests it represents it will speak with no uncertain voice, but will fearlessly the right defend and impartially the wrong condemn."—From Col. Polk's Salutatory, February 10, 1886.

### INDUSTRIAL TRAINING FOR WHITE BOYS

In commenting last week on the discussion of negro education at the Richmond Conference for Education in the South, we should not have overlooked the address of Dr. Lyman Hall, of Georgia, in which he made an earnest plea for more liberal support of white training schools.

"I do not believe," he said, "that there is a school in the South where a white boy can learn bricklaying, or plumbing, furniture making, or practical manufacturing in wood and metal and clay on a practical commercial basis. Our technical schools are sending out a few leaders, superintendents, scientists, who are not to form the rank and file of skilled labor. But the colored race is meeting this problem with abundant means, had for the asking. Their industrial schools are making skilled workmen who command good wages, and who are turned from employment by no false sentiment, by no prejudice, by no union in any trade or handicraft in the Southern States. These schools are increasing in number and size. When the colored race all become skilled bricklayers somebody will have to carry the mortar. When they all become plumbers, who are going to be the helpers, the men who carry the tools? When they become scientific farmers, who are going to be the laborers? We Southerners, we Southern whites? No. We have settled that question long ago, and Richmond, Va., is the last place on earth to ask that question and receive a doubtful reply. But unless we have trade and industrial schools, our boys will have to carry the mortar for somebody, even if they have to emigrate to do it."

Dr. Hall, it will be seen, was not pleading for any backward step in negro education, but for greater facilities for industrial training of white boys. And the appeal was a timely one. Tuskegee Industrial Institute for Southern negroes now has a \$1,000,000 endowment; where is there an equally well-equipped school to train Southern whites as farmers and mechanics? The demand for industrial education for the negro is wise and proper, but there seems to be some danger of making the impression that it is the peculiar need of the negro, and not a need of the white man also. We cannot better express our own opinion as to this matter than by quoting the words of Rev. Baylus Cade, at one time Editor of The Progressive Farmer:

"Much harm as has been done to the South in many ways, no greater harm has come to it, than the cultivation of the opinion that manual labor should be given over into the hands of underling classes—that the marks of degradation is upon manual labor to such an extent as to make it desirable to turn it over to inferiors. There is nothing else that so shamefully harms the South, and the people of the South as their dependence upon negroes for the performance of all sorts of manual labor. This section of the Republic can never take its place with the other sections in winning industrial honors and economic distinctions until it shall set it best blood and its best attainments to the doing of all sorts of tasks that need to be done. The so-called ruling classes, the so-called social upper crust, the professional classes even, are not the best, nor the most honorable classes in any State. The strength, the honor, and even the beauty of any people reside in the ability and willingness of that people to do all the tasks that come up to be done—to solve all the problems that come up for solution."

### CURRENT EVENTS: THE DRIFT OF THINGS AS WE SEE IT.

It has been some weeks now since this department of editorial comment on public affairs last appeared in The Progressive Farmer. In the meantime we have endeavored to keep our readers informed by our news pages, but the plan has not been entirely satisfactory. In the press dispatch or news item each event is described largely for its own sake and without regard to its relations to other occurrences. This lack of harmony and symmetry is the chief defect of the daily newspaper. The weekly should take a broader view of things—should go over the entire field and bring the fragmentary reports into right relations one with another. It is to give this more orderly and comprehensive review of the world's happenings that we resume this department.

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#### The Louisiana Purchase and the Exposition.

But news is painfully scarce, and the great magazines and illustrated weeklies are talking chiefly of the significance of the Louisiana Purchase and the outlook for the St. Louis Exposition—apropos of the centennial, April 30th, of Napoleon's great land sale and the dedication on that day of the great exposition to be held next year as a celebration of the event. How fortunate a transaction it was for the United States is well illustrated by the fact we shall spend nearly three times as much on the Exposition to celebrate the Purchase as was involved in the sale itself! Yet a hundred years ago President Jefferson was roundly abused for confirming the great deal made by our French agents—Robert R. Livingston, of New York, and James Monroe, of Virginia. On the wilderness, then bought for \$15,000,000 we now have a population of 15,000,000, with property assessed at \$6,600,000,000, and out of the Purchase we have carved the whole or the greater part of fourteen States and Territories—all of Louisiana, Arkansas, Missouri, Iowa, North and South Dakota, Nebraska, Oklahoma, Indian Territory, Montana, and the larger part of Wyoming, Minnesota, Kansas and Colorado. It is fitting that the greatest exposition ever held is to be in honor of what is probably the greatest land deal in the history of the world. The Philadelphia Centennial covered only 236 acres, and the Chicago World's Fair ten years ago only 633, but the St. Louis Fair will use 1,180 acres. And the managers are giving quite as much attention to quality as to quantity.

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#### The Merger Decision and the Alabama Case.

The more thoughtful portion of the reading public is also much interested just now in two other occurrences that happened without blare of trumpets or boom of cannon. We refer to two recent judicial decisions—those in the Northern Securities case and the Alabama registration case. Both have been explained at some length in our news columns. In the Northern Securities case the United States Circuit Court of Appeals simply declared illegal a "merger" or combination of competing (or potentially competing) railway lines, and ordered its dissolution. The case is analogous to that of a number of other great monopolies, and if the decision is sustained by the Supreme Court, it may bring about a considerable change in trust management. "Whatever happens," says the World's Work, "this decision, affecting the largest combination of transportation interests ever made, brings us at one leap into a practical effort to see what can be done to restrain harmful combinations; we pass from mere discussion to experiment." This is the first practical result of the anti-trust activity in Congress last winter and will add, it is thought, to the political prestige of Mr. Roosevelt.

The Alabama registration case is not so import-

ant, as first reports made it appear. The Supreme Court did not by any means declare the Alabama suffrage laws constitutional; it studiously refrained from expressing any opinion whatever, as the case was not brought in the proper form to make such an expression pertinent. The Court simply held that it had no right to interfere in the execution of a State law; that is a matter for the executive, not the judicial, department of government. For the negro Giles, it appears, asked not to uproot the Alabama constitutional amendment, but to compel the registration of his name under the terms of the amendment.

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#### "The Recrudescence of Cleveland"

Among the political speculators just now the paramount question is, Can Cleveland get the Democratic nomination? He is certainly more popular than at any time for ten years past. It is not surprising that his recent deliverance on the negro question and negro education has brought him new strength, North and South, for it was one of the clearest and most sensible utterances on the race problem that we have had. His St. Louis speech has also been well received. Nevertheless, we do not believe that Mr. Cleveland has any chance whatever of securing a third term as President. He might overcome the opposition of either George Washington or W. J. Bryan singly, but the combination of the two hopelessly bars him from success. Heretofore there have always been enough believers in the "no third term" doctrine to repel any attack upon it, but if this vital objection were waived in Mr. Cleveland's case, he would find himself quite as badly handicapped by the bitter opposition of the Bryan element of the Democratic Party. Mr. Bryan may not be able to name the nominee next year, but he will be able to say who must not be nominated, and Mr. Cleveland heads the list of his marked men. Mr. Bryan and George Washington make a combination not lightly to be reckoned with.

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#### Municipal and School Elections in North Carolina.

The municipal elections in this State last week brought no important surprises except at Asheville and Durham. In Asheville the Anti-Saloon League led a vigorous crusade for moral reform in city administration, and opposed the regular Democratic organization, but was defeated. In Durham, to the surprise of everybody, the reform ticket won a surprising victory. The elections on the establishment of graded schools were practically all carried by the school advocates. A progressive step is to be taken by Alamance where several rural graded schools are to be established. In seven of the nine townships that voted on the question, schools were favored. And the Monroe Journal reports that "two special tax elections were held in Union County, and both carried with little opposition. This makes four local tax districts in Union County, and the prospects that there will before very long be others. Beside these, there were two high schools, Waxhaw and Unionville, where free instruction was offered to every child in the community last year for eight or nine months."

The note, on page 7, regarding the career of the old "Blueback Speller" will interest thousands of our readers and will arouse many memories of "the days that are no more." Now the old "Blueback" has gone into disuse. The boy of to-day knows nothing of the old-time educational landmarks—"baker" and "in-com-pre-hen-sibility"—nor yet of "carte-blanche" and the other foreign words beyond the pictures. We even found a college professor the other day who couldn't recall having seen a copy of the book, and a North Carolina editor moved us to pity by reporting that he had searched Aesop's Fables in vain for the story of the man whose ox was gored!